

16 January 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Intelligence Training

FROM: [redacted]  
Director of Training and Education

SUBJECT: Inviting Critics as Course Speakers

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1. [redacted] asked that I provide him with some guidance as to our policy relating to inviting speakers who are critics of U.S. policies or who offer alternative or revisionist views. I support inviting such speakers where appropriate, since I think it is important for our students to be aware of what critics of Government positions may be saying and how they are saying it. We deal with mature, adult students, and we can assume that they put all speakers including critics into a proper perspective.

2. I would like to add two caveats to my approval to your inviting critical speakers. Firstly, I would like us to avoid inviting as speakers former senior Agency officials who hold alternate views on matters of current interest. It just seems to me that the inevitable comparisons between "how we did it then" and how it is being done now serve no real constructive purpose. Secondly, I ask that in each case where we invite someone to present alternate sides to issues and policies, we make it very clear to the students that we are involved in a deliberate attempt to provide them with alternate view points. I think this is only fair in terms of our management, students, and the speakers involved.

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D/OTE, [redacted] (16 Jan 85)

Distribution:  
Orig - Addressee  
~~1 - D/OTE~~  
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4 Jan 85

Hal,

Advice and counsel, please!

STAT One of our goals with AIS is to provide speakers who will provoke the class into considering alternative sides to issues and policies. I remember when [redacted] brought in Ronald Steele, a revisionist on US-Soviet relations, to address that topic.

STAT I have a concern. I would posit that in the days of home-grown DCIs, it was almost fashionable to bring in all points of view into training programs as evidence of our openness and objectivity. A prime example was [redacted] a bona fide peacenik and hippie, who spoke to a Senior Seminar.

But with the advent of political DCIs, we seem to encourage folks like Richard Pipes and Konstantine Menges, but not those from the other end of the spectrum, to take part in our programs. I would like to find some good folks to raise basic questions about our policies in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, arms control, etc. Before we can look very far, we need some encouragement from management.

For openers, we would like to invite Randall Robinson, from Transafrica Lobby, to discuss South Africa, in the February AIS. Other possibilities...Walter LaFeber Cornell University, on Central America or more broadly, US foreign policy (he has written a couple of good studies on US-Soviet relations from a revisionist point of view), and individuals as yet unidentified who would be critics of Star Wars, barriers to technology transfer (perhaps from industry, identified by NCD), covert action in principle, US-Israeli relations, etc.

Can we get some guidance on Robinson soonest, and on the broader issue of identifying critics and inviting on a case-by-case basis in the near future?

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